

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01794 01 OF 02 181646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MCT-02 INR-10
NSC-05 CIAE-00 /057 W
-----074748 181810Z /53-S

R 181547Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1794

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: CALL ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

REF: NICOSIA 1790

FOLLOWS IS TEXT XEROXED MESSAGE MENTIONED REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT.

18TH JULY 1978

THEO G. PAPAPETROU
CIVIL AVIATION H.Q.
NICOSIA - CYPRUS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WISH TO REFER TO THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE AT
LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOLLOWING THE SETTING DOWN
FROM AN EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE PLANE/C-130, OF A UNIT OF EGYPTIAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01794 01 OF 02 181646Z

COMMANDOES AND THEIR ATTACK AGAINST THE HIJACKED CYPRUS
AIRWAYS DC-8 A/C PILOTED BY THE CHIEF PILOT OF CYPRUS AIR-
WAYS CAPTAIN S. MELLING PLUS THREE CREW, AND TO BRING TO
YOUR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING.

THE MOMENT NEWS BROKE OUT WITH REGARD TO THE KILLING
OF EL-SHEBAI AT THE HILTON HOTEL NICOSIA ON 18/2/78, I WAS

INFORMED THAT THE KILLERS PLUS UNKNOWN NUMBER OF HOSTAGES WERE DRIVEN TO LARNACA AIRPORT IN A POLICE MINI BUS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE MR. CH. VENIAMIN & DR. V. LYSSARIDES A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL AT LARNACA AIRPORT LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS STARTED BETWEEN THE TWO KILLERS AND GOVT OFFICIALS TOGETHER WITH THE GENERAL MANAGER OF CYPRUS AIRWAYS MR. E. SAVVA WHO FINALLY ADVISED ALL PRESENT THAT A CREW OF VOLUNTEERS WERE READY TO TAKE THEM TO LIBYA.

THE AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF AT HRS(SIC) AND THE FLIGHT NO. WAS 007 AS RECORDED BY CAPTAIN MELLING ON THE FLIGHT PLAN.

AMONGST OTHER PEOPLE WHO GATHERED AT THE AIRPORT I NOTICED THE SECRETARY OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY MR. PAUL KOURPHJOUN WHO LIKE THE REST OF THOSE GATHERED VERY ANXIOUSLY WANTED TO BE INFORMED OF THE EVENTS, THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEPARTURE, WHETHER THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR & DEFENSE WAS TO ACCOMPANY THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES TO THEIR JOURNEY, AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY THEY WERE HEADING TO.

AT LEAST ON TWO OCCASIONS MR. KOURPHJOUN MADE TWO PHONE CALLS TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN NICOSIA: ONE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NICOSI 01794 01 OF 02 181646Z

PHONE CALL WAS MADE FROM MY OFFICE AND THE OTHER FROM THE V.I.P. ROOM.

I WATCHED THE FLIGHT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND PASSED OVER THE FIRST TWO SIGNALS RECEIVED(SIC) FROM DIBOUTI(SIC) AIRPORT EARLY MORNING OF 19/2 TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS THE DG. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT REQUESTING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE CYPRUS GOVT TO HEADS OF FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRIES IE LIBYA OR ALGIERS TO ALLOW THE LANDING OF THE CYPRUS AIRWAYS DC 8 AS SITUATION WAS BECOMING "DESPERATE".

WITH THE RETURN AND LANDING TO LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF THE DC-8 IN THE EVENING HOURS, NEXT DAY 19/2, FOLLOWED WITH THE LANDING OF THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE PLANE C-130 WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO SET DOWN A MINISTER FOR WATCHING THE NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED OUT BY YOU AND THE KILLERS, AGAIN I NOTICED MR. KOURPHJOUN RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE AIRPORT IE THE V.I.P. LOUNGE THE AIRPORT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, THE PASSENGERS DEPARTURE LOUNGE, THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER THIS

TIME COMMUNICATING WITH A RADIO-TELEPHONE TALKING HOW-
EVER IN GERMAN.

HE MIXED HIMSELF UP WITH A DOZEN OR MORE OF FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS AND OR CAMERMEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE SHOOT-
ING BROKE OUT. ON ONE OCCASION WHEN I WAS CLEARING
ALL JOURNALISTS FROM THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE INSPITE OF
THEIR PROTESTS TO ME AS THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF
MAKING PHONE CALLS TO THEIR MAIN STATIONS, MR. KOURPH-
JOUN GAVE ME A VERY NASTY LOOK AND SAID SOMETHING IN
GERMAN, PROBABLY AN INSULT AGAINST ME; PRESENT TO THIS
INCIDENT WERE THE MANAGER OF CYTA LARNACA MR. LANDIS WHO
THREATENED TO REPORT ME BECAUSE BY EMPLOYING THIS METHOD
THE AUTHORITY WAS LOOSING(SIC) REVENUE, AND MR. PHANIS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NICOSI 01794 01 OF 02 181646Z

PARPAIRIS WHO AGAIN THREATENED TO REPORT ME TO THE GOVT,
FOR BEING RUDE TO THE PRESS.

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION PER MR. COEURVOISIN, S/S-O.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01794 02 OF 02 181703Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MCT-02 INR-10

NSC-05 CIAE-00 /057 W

-----075069 181812Z /53-S

R 181547Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8020
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1794

MR. KOURPHJOUN PRIOR AND AFTER THE SHOOTING INCI-
DENT WAS CONTINUOUSLY COMMUNICATING OR MAKING USE OF
HIS RADIO-TELEPHONE ALWAYS TALKING IN GERMAN.

WHILE AT THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, ASKING ALL JOURNALISTS AND CAMERAMEN TO LEAVE THE PLACE, I SAW HIM ONCE AGAIN MAKING USE OF HIS RADIO-TELEPHONE THIS TIME ON THE VERANDAH OUTSIDE THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

THIS WAS PROBABLY SECONDS BEFORE THE SHOOTING STARTED WHEN I HELPED YOU DOWN THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND YOU PROCEEDED TO LARNACA.

AFTER THAT I TOOK BATTLE POSITION ON THE AIRCRAFT PARKING AREA MAKING USE OF A POLICE MACHINE GUN WHICH I FOUND LYING OUTSIDE ONE OF THE OFFICES.

AFTER THE SHOOTING WAS OVER IN ABOUT 30' I PROCEEDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE AIRPORT MANAGER WHERE I WAS RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR & DEFENSE & GENERAL COMNINOS WHICH I WAS PASSING OVER THE RADIO TO MR. HADDAD WITH REGARDS TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE REMAINING COMMANDOES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01794 02 OF 02 181703Z

THESE WERE COLONEL SHUKRI, ONE MAJOR AND 3 CAPTAINS WHO WERE HOLDING AS CAPTIVE CAPTAIN CHRYSOS HADJANDONIS AND SENIOR GROUND OPS OFFICER PAMBOS HADJCHARALAMBOUS, WITHIN A BAC-1-11 AIRCRAFT OF CYPRUS AIRWAYS.

ALL PRISONERS HANDED OVER THEIR GUNS TO ME AND I TURNED THEM OVER TO ASST SUPT POTAMARIS, WHEREAS THE PRISONERS WERE ASHERED(SIC) INTO MY OFFICE, TO SOME OF THEM I OFFERED FIRST AID TREATMENT AS THEY WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED.

THE THEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE MR. G. IOANIDES WAS ALSO WITH ME, GENERAL COMNINOS AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR & DEFENCE.

I REMEMBER CLEARLY ANOTHER OCCASION DURING THE FIGHTING, WHILE LYING ON THE AIRCRAFT PARKING AREA OUTSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE ASST COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, SOME CAMERAMEN MADE USE OF THEIR FLASH AND I HAD TO CRAWL INTO THE OFFICE OF THE CUSTOMS AND HAD 2-3 CAMERAS SMASHED; THESE CAMERAMEN WERE (SIC) EITHER AMERICANS OR JEWISH. MR. KOURPHJOUN WAS ALSO SEEN THERE TALKING OVER HIS RADIO-TELEPHONE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE THAT ABOVE WILL BE OF SOME INTEREST TO YOU, AND WILL ASSIST THE AUTHORITIES IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER.

FOR ALL POINTS REFERRED INTO(SIC) MY STATEMENT I AM
READY TO TESTIFY UPON OATH BEFORE ANY OFFICIAL BODY
HERE OR ELSEWHERE.
WITH MY HIGHEST RESPECT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NICOSI 01794 02 OF 02 181703Z

YOURS FAITHFULLY.

/S/

T.G. PAPAPETHROU
ASSISTANT AIRPORT MANAGER

END TEXT.
STONE

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION PER MR. COEURVOISIN, S/S-O.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI01794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-1152
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780748/aaaabogo.tel
Line Count: 244
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc2e5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NICOSIA 1790
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1971456
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc2e5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014